

NEWS RELEASE



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Federal Government Appropriates \$3,160,000 for Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to enhance natural areas at Hansen Dam

*Unprecedented earmark to Army Corps of Engineers
championed by Congressman Howard Berman*

Van Nuys—Congressman Howard Berman announced today that \$3.16 million in federal funds have been earmarked for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to enhance the natural areas in Hansen Dam Recreational Area in the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

Working with Congressman Berman, the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Los Angeles, the Conservancy will incorporate extensive public input to devise a plan both to restore the ecological integrity of some of the southwestern flood plain area, and to provide a staging area for environmental education. The Dam impoundment area supports wetland, alluvial fan scrub, coastal sage scrub and riparian vegetation. The area connects to the Angeles National Forest via the Big Tujunga Wash and contains habitat for has been identified as habitat for the Endangered least Bell's vireo.

“Hansen Dam is extraordinary in that it provides all the beauty and resources of the finest of California natural areas in the center of one of the most densely populated areas of Los Angeles County,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the

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Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “Congressman Berman is a true visionary who understands the importance of preserving the valuable natural resources of our communities and providing easily accessible environmental experiences to all.”

The project is part of a larger goal of the Conservancy to bring nature to the park-poor regions of urban Los Angeles. Over 1.3 million people from the communities of Arleta, Pacoima, Panorama City Sun Valley, Sunland, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, Mission Hills, and Sepulveda areas have easy access to Hansen Dam without long bus trips or extensive travel time for schools and families.

The Hansen Dam Recreation Area is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and is operated under a lease by the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks. The partnership of the Conservancy with federal and local government will bring a myriad of resources to the important project.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is dedicated to the preservation and acquisition of open space and parkland throughout Southern California.

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